

Timber Management, R-4

5220

October 18, 1960

Richard L. Washburn, Entomologist
Division of Forest Insect ResearchDetection (Aerial)

As of this date, we have completed the annual detection surveys on all but part of the Payette and Fishlake National Forests. Biological evaluation of the infestations have been completed on all areas flown except a small mountain pine beetle outbreak on the Cache National Forest and a small part of the Ashley National Forest. Aerial detection surveys were terminated October 14 because of the heavy snow cover on the remaining areas. These areas will be inspected early next spring.

A brief summary of the infestations located during the surveys follows, with results of our evaluations and in some cases an indication that control may be warranted.

Targhee National Forest

Only about 4,000 acres of spruce budworm infestation is classed as heavy with a forecast of heavy defoliation next year. This area is located in the vicinity of Targhee Creek. Probably insufficient area to warrant treatment.

A small hot spot of mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine (100 to 200 infested trees) has developed between Snider and Taylor Creeks. This area is just north of Sheridan Reservoir infestation.

Mud Springs and Moody Creek, in the vicinity of Hawley Gulch Ranger Station, contains a heavy but localized infestation of mountain pine beetle. This infestation borders the old treating boundaries and is located on National Forest land and lands of unknown ownership.

The general presence of mountain pine beetle-infested trees in the Antelope Flats area was not judged as having epidemic tendencies. Therefore, it does not appear to represent a threat of a magnitude that would warrant control. The same is true for the mountain pine beetle activity in Kilm and Leigh Creeks.

Fall biological evaluations were not made within the mountain pine beetle project control boundaries. However, control should continue on all units that still contain sizeable numbers of infested trees.

Bridger National Forest

The Gypsum Creek Engelmann spruce beetle infestation is most aggressive. Continued treatment of this infestation would be desirable from the entomological standpoint.

No serious mountain pine beetle outbreak was noted on the Bridger. There are, however, small outbreaks in the vicinity of the Willow and New Fork Lakes. These infestations have been present for several years but do not appear to represent an immediate threat to lodgepole pine in the area.

Caribou National Forest

We did not discover any serious forest insect infestation. There is, of course, a large acreage of lodgepole pine infested with lodgepole needle miner.

Cache National Forest

No serious forest insect outbreaks were detected other than the mountain pine beetle outbreak south and east of Sherman Peak. This outbreak has not been ground checked. However, the infestation will be evaluated in the near future and a report submitted to the forest through the R.O.

Wasatch National Forest

The only noticeable infestation on the Wasatch, other than the north slope project, was several small patches of mountain pine beetle in the Provo River drainage. These are centered near Iron Mountain and along the river bottom.

Ashley National Forest

The pandora moth infestation near Summit Springs persists. However, more evaluation work will be necessary before it can be ascertained if control action may be needed next year.

The mountain pine beetle infestations reported by the forest have been evaluated with the following results:

Townships 1 and 2 North, Range 5 West, Uintah Special Meridian. Forest and Indian lands. This infestation is epidemic in nature and should be controlled. The buildup ratio and beetle population density do not indicate an immediate serious situation, but do show a potential exists that might explode in the future.

The infestation in Brown Duck Creek should be reevaluated next spring to more accurately determine its trend. Present data show less than epidemic tendencies but if less than normal winter mortality occurs it may become desirable to treat the area to prevent excessive tree mortality.

The Miners Gulch infestation, while more aggressive than it has been for several years, does not in our judgement represent a threat to adjoining pine stands. This infestation has built up and then decreased on its own during the last few years.

The infestation detected several years ago in Lake Creek, near the junction of Oweep Creek, appears to be increasing in size and intensity. We hope ground evaluations of this infestation can be scheduled this fall.

There are several other small mountain pine beetle infestations on the Ashley but none, in our judgment, appears to need immediate control action.

Dixie National Forest

Almost without exception, the Black Hills beetle infestations on the Dixie show a decided trend downward. Undoubtedly, surveys by forest personnel will show one or more small hot spots that may need to be treated next year to complete control action in these isolated areas.

Over on the Pine Valley mountains, a small spot of scattered Black Hills beetle-faded trees was detected on the bench between Bark Hollow and Main Canyon near Gardner Ranch. Approximately 100 faded trees were observed in this area. These were widely scattered and appeared mostly as singles. It is suggested the forest should check this area to determine the approximate number of currently infested trees. If treatment appears desirable from the economic viewpoint, entomologists will inspect the area to determine entomological status.

The spruce beetle infestation on Griffin Top appears to be increasing and should be checked carefully to determine if sufficient slash is available to absorb next year's beetle population.

Toiyabe National Forest

The aerial detection survey of the Toiyabe did not reveal any new forest insect outbreaks of any consequence. The Charleston Mountain district appeared exceptionally free of any recently faded bark beetle trees. The Crystal Bay infestation, on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, persists with the beetle population density and parasite relationship at about the same level as last year. Late next field season entomologists will make an inspection of the Dog Valley burn to determine the presence of any insect buildup in the fire weakened timber.

Busholdt National Forest

The timbered portions of the Ely and White Pine districts were covered by the detection survey. These districts appeared free of any sizeable forest insect activity except, of course, the tussock moth infestation on Wheeler Peak.

Uinta National Forest

We did not detect any outbreaks on the Uinta outside of the Soapstone spruce beetle project area.

4-Timber Management, R-4-10/18/60

Manti-LaSal National Forest

No new forest insect outbreaks were detected on the Manti-LaSal National Forest. Unfortunately, we did not get to survey the west side of the Monticello District. (West of the Gooseberry Guard Station).

Payette National Forest

Weather conditions prevented an aerial detection survey of the area above McCall between the North Fork of the Payette River and the Little Salmon River. All of the rest of the Payette was covered. No serious forest insect outbreaks were detected. Ground evaluations of the spruce beetle outbreaks show a definite downward trend of the beetle population in the Fisher Creek project area. However, the Goose Lake-Hazard Lake road right of way contains a high spruce beetle population in the cold decks resulting from the road clearing. This large beetle population could be expected to move to standing trees if not reduced.

Boise National Forest

The mountain pine beetle in and around Atlanta appears to have been greatly reduced through control action. The tussock moth outbreak in the Town Creek infestation may need to be treated next spring to prevent further injury to the plantings. There were no other forest insect outbreaks of note detected on the Boise.

Challis National Forest

All but the Yankee Fork drainage was flown on the Challis. No bark beetle outbreaks of any consequence were detected. The spruce budworm infestation covers over 150,000 acres of which about 50,000 acres were classified as heavy defoliation (between 75-90 percent of new growth destroyed).

Biological evaluation indicates that in the heavy defoliated areas the budworm population trend is predicted to be heavy for next year.

Salmon National Forest

Nearly 500,000 acres of visible budworm damage was mapped on the Salmon. The infestation is sporadic showing a definite downward trend.

Sawtooth National Forest

The budworm outbreak on the Sawtooth is definitely on the down trend and is rapidly disappearing. There might be justification for a small amount of control on the Sawtooth mountain pine beetle project next year to eliminate any existing hot spots. In general, however, from the entomological viewpoint the beetles do not appear to have the epidemic tendencies experienced the last few years.

Teton National Forest

The aerial detection survey and ground checking have now been completed on the Teton. No major forest insect outbreaks, other than the mountain pine beetle, were discovered. It is our opinion that treatment should be continued next year in all areas treated this year provided, of course, sufficient trees remain to justify the expense.

New outbreaks occur in Pilgrim Creek and Pacific Creek. Both of these outbreaks are on both National Park and National Forest land. Grand Teton National Park plans to treat the infested trees on their side of the line in both infestations. Biological evaluations show both to be epidemic in nature with a definite trend upward. On the National Forest side our rough estimate indicates 500 infested trees in Pilgrim Creek and some 200 in Pacific Creek.

It should be pointed out that although an effort is made to cover 100 percent of the area flown, this is a physical impossibility. Therefore, it is possible that small threatening outbreaks may exist that we did not see. It should also be emphasized that only major species are considered in this memo. A complete story on the forest insect situation in Region 4, as we know it, will be submitted in report form in the near future.

R. I. Washburn